

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (original) A powering assembly for converting a manual hand truck to a motor driven hand truck, the assembly comprising:

a hand truck having a frame defining an outer frame width;

an electric motor;

a transaxle driven by the electric motor and having differentially connected right and left axles;

right and left wheels attached to the right and left axles respectively;

a motor controller electrically connected to the motor; and

a power source electrically connected to the motor controller; and

said powering assembly fits substantially within the outer frame width.

2. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, wherein the wheels are connected to the axles so that they may be set to rotate freely on the axles or to be fixed to the axles so that they do not rotate with respect to the axles.

3. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 2, wherein:

the axles include wheel grooves, and wherein the wheels include fixing pins for engaging the wheel grooves to attach the wheels to the axles so that they are axially fixed with respect to the axles; and

the powering assembly further includes locking hubs keyed to the axles and having a first hub position and a second hub position, and wherein:

7 in the first hub position the locking hub is disengaged from the respective
8 wheel; and
9 in the second hub position the locking hub is engaged with the respective
10 wheel.

4. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, wherein the outer frame width is between approximately ten inches and approximately eighteen inches.

5. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 4, wherein the outer frame width is approximately twelve inches.

6. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, wherein the power source comprises two twelve volt batteries.

7. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, wherein the motor is between approximately one quarter and approximately one half horse power.

8. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 7, wherein the motor is between approximately one quarter and approximately one third horse power.

9. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 8, wherein the motor is approximately one quarter horse power.

10. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 9, wherein the transaxle and motor may be removed from the hand truck by releasing four fasteners.

11. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, further including side plates defining a protective profile for the powering assembly.

12. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 11, further including slides attached to the side rails to facilitate sliding the hand truck over obstacles.

13. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 12, wherein the slides are fabricated from polytetrafluoroethene (PTFE).

14. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, wherein the hand truck includes handles, and wherein the powering assembly includes a speed control attached to the handles, and a power on/off indicator residing proximal to the speed control.

15. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, further including a hi/low speed switch for selecting a high speed mode or a low speed mode.

16. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 15, wherein the high speed is approximately four miles per hour and the low speed is approximately two miles per hour.

17. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 1, wherein the hand truck is a convertible hand truck having a two wheel mode and a platform mode.

18. (original) The powering assembly of Claim 17, wherein a low speed is automatically selected when the hand truck is in the two wheel mode.

19. (original) A powered hand truck comprising:

a hand truck having a frame defining an outer frame width between approximately ten inches and approximately eighteen inches;

an electric motor;

a transaxle driven by the electric motor and having differentially connected right and left axles;

right and left wheels attached to the right and left axles respectively;

a motor controller electrically connected to the motor; and

a power source electrically connected to the motor controller,

wherein said powering assembly resides substantially within the outer frame width.

20. (currently amended) A powered hand truck comprising:

~~a convertible hand truck having~~ a frame defining an outer frame width, which frame is convertible between a two wheel hand truck mode and a four wheel platform mode for moving over a floor surface;

an electric motor supported by said frame and positioned above the floor surface

6 when said frame is in said platform mode;
7 a right axle and a left axle, a transaxle at least one of the right axle and the left
8 axle driven by the electric motor ~~and having differentially connected right and left axles;~~
9 right and left hand truck wheels attached to the right and left axles respectively;
10 right and left caster wheels for use in the platform mode ;
11 ~~a motor controller electrically connected to the motor; and~~
12 a power source electrically connected to the electric ~~motor controller,~~
13 wherein said motor, ~~transaxle, motor controller,~~ and power source reside
14 substantially within the outer frame width.